



U.S. Department of Justice

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MEDIA RELEASE

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HUDSON MAN CONVICTED ON EXTORTION CHARGES

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE -- United States Attorney Tom Colantuono today **announced** that Andrew Ghalashahi, 22, of Hudson, New Hampshire, was convicted after a four day jury trial on charges of conspiracy to commit extortion, extortion, and receiving the proceeds of an extortion. Ghalashahi was indicted on August 21, 2002 and charged with conspiring with another person to make and making telephone calls threatening to harm the reputation of Kurt Engelhardt of Manchester and threatening to accuse Engelhardt of a crime in order to extort money from Engelhardt. The indictment also alleged that Ghalashahi and another person were successful in obtaining \$5,000 from Engelhardt and demanded up to least \$300,000 in payments.

Ghalashahi faces a statutory maximum of five years on the conspiracy charge, two years on the extortion charge and three years on the receiving proceeds charge, and a fine of up to \$250,000 on each count. A sentencing hearing is scheduled for May 14, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. at the United States District Court.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation investigated the case and referred it to the United States Attorney's Office. This case was prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorneys Don Feith and Terry Ollila.